

This State association, fixed on a broad and firm basis, representing all classes of schools, and gracefully acting under the lead, and in great part for the benefit of the Common Schools, is a fact of our condition to which too much importance cannot be attached.

That it may be the more useful it is my ardent desire to see it ramify into county and district associations affiliated with it; and already seven counties are interested in associations of the kind, while a considerable number of others are waiting for the spring to move in the same direction.

An early and valuable fruit of the State Association is the *North-Carolina Journal of Education*, got up under its auspices—a handsome monthly periodical in mechanical execution, and in literary character comparing most favorably with any enterprise of the kind in the Union.

A board of editors, located in all parts of the State, contribute to its pages: and while it is wholly devoted to the cause of education to which it will render efficient service, it is, in itself, a bond of union among teachers and educators, and a source of gratification and encouragement to the friends of the State.

A number of counties where, by alterations, and a want of careful oversight over the whole field of operations, the district system had got in confusion, have been stimulated to adopt bold and wise measures of reform; and in these instances the boards of county superintendents, embracing the views of this office, have re-districted, or resolved to re-district their counties, making the whole system more compact and more convenient.

Chairmen have been induced to make out maps of their school districts, and others are laboring in the same matter.

The laws, formed into a new compilation during the year by the general superintendent, and printed under his supervision and sent out to the chairmen, have been more generally distributed to committees, and more carefully read; and the blanks sent out have been better filled and more in demand.